given in the Ministry of Finance O.M. No. F.8(4)-E.G.I/61 dated 15-3-1961 are as under :

(i) A super-numerary post is normally created to accommodate the lien of an officer who in the opinion of the authority competent to create such a post is entitled to hold a lien against a regular permanent post but who, due to non-availability of a regular permanent post, cannot have his lien against such a post.

(ii) It is a shadow post, i.e., no duties are attached to such a post. The officer, whose lien is maintained against such a post generally performs duties in some other vacant temporary or permanent post.

(iii) It can be created only if another vacant permanent or temporary post is not available to provide work for the person whose lien is retained by the creation of the super-numerary post. In other words, it should not be created in circumstances which, at the time of the creation of the post or thereafter, would lead to an excess of the working strength.

(iv) It is always a permanent post. Since, however, it is a post created for accommodating a permanent officer till he is absorbed in a regular permanent post, it should not be created for an indefinite period as other permanent posts are, but should normally be created for a definite and fixeed period sufficient for the purpose in view.

(v) It is personal to the officer for whom it is created and no other offiecr can be appointed against such a post. It stands abolished as soon as the officer for whom it was created vacates it on account of retirement or confirmation in another regular permanent post or for any other reason. In other words, no officiating arrangements can be made against such a post since a super-numerary post is not a working post, the number of working posts in a cadre will continue to be regulated in a manner that if a permanent incumbent of one of the regular posts returns to the cadre and all the posts are manned, one of these officers of the cadre will have to make room for him. He should not be shown against a super-numerary post.

(vi) No extra financial commitment is involved in the creation of such posts in the shape of increased pay and allowance, pensionary benefits, etc.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Complains against the Director of National Council of Educational Research and Training

993. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently received any complaint against the Director, National Council of Educational Research and Training; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) and (b) An unsigned complaint has been received in the Ministry in June, 1988 against the Director, National Council of Educational Research and Training. As the complaint is unsigned no action has been taken. A copy of a telegram addressed to the Prime Minister and the Human Resource Development Minister signed by Convenor, Academicians Formus has also been received in June, 1988 but the person concerned has denied that he ever sent such a communication.

Black Marketing in Railway Reservations at New Delhi Railway Station

994. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that black marketing in railway reservation on massive scale involving several lacs of rupees daily is still going on at New Delhi Railway Station even after the introduction of computer system;

(b) if so, what measures Government propose to adopt to curb this malpractice.

(c) whether it is a fact that between November 7 and December 14, 1986, 134 persons involved in black marketing of railway tickets were caught; and

(d) if so, what kind of punishment was given to these persons ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. With the introduction of computerisation and frequent surprise checks by the Anti Fraud and Vigilance squads, the activities of touts and unauthorised travel agents have been greatly curbed. Surprise checks are conducted in Reservation Complexes and to door to door verification of the reservations done to check reservation on fake names.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. 31 persons, involved in black marketing of railway tickets were apprehended during this period and prosecuted under the extent provisions of the Indian Railways Act. Apart from this, 113 persons were apprehended travelling on transferred reservations during the same period from whom an amount of Rs. 13,558/- was realised besides confiscation of their tickets.

Availabiilty of Beds in Chandigarh Hospitals

995. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of beds available in general wards and private wards respectively, in the hospitals at Chandigarh;

(b) what is the actual requirement of beds at present and that expected by the year 1990;

(c) whether any action is being taken by Government to meet the rising needs of the region; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Financial assistance to Professional Groups and Individuals in the fitld of performing arts

996. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA. Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal under their consideration to give financial assistance to professional groups and individuals engaged in specified art projects in the field of performing arts;

(b) if so, what are the details of the groups to whom the assistance would be given; and

(c) what is the amount of assistance proposed to be given, in each case, and on what basis ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Such assistance will be given to dramatic groups, theatre groups, music ensembles, solo artists and all genres of performing arts activities.

(c) Assistance is given in the form of grant/subsidy to the approved projects or programmes. The selection is made by an Expert Advisory Committee which scrutinise all the proposals received under this scheme. The maximum grant/subsidy permissible under this scheme is Rs. 40,000/- in a year.

Purchase of Soviet Aircraft

997. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to purchase Soviet aircraft to augment its commercial fleet, in and outside the country; and